

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-46 Canceled.

47. (New) A method of detecting presence or absence of a *Plasmodium* malarial agent of humans in a biological sample, said method comprising contacting a nucleic acid probe or primer with said sample or a nucleic acid extracted, purified or amplified from the sample from said sample for a time and under conditions sufficient for hybridisation to occur and then detecting said hybridisation using a detection means, wherein the probe or primer comprises at least 15 consecutive nucleotides of nucleotides 1147 to 1740 of SEQ ID NO:1 or at least 15 consecutive nucleotides of a sequence complementary to nucleotides 1147 to 1740 of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the presence of a *Plasmodium* agent of humans is detected when hybridisation is detected and wherein the absence of a *Plasmodium* agent of humans is detected when hybridisation is not detected.
48. (New) The method according to claim 47, wherein the hybridisation step is performed under low stringency hybridisation conditions.
49. (New) The method according to claim 47, wherein the hybridisation step is performed under moderate stringency hybridisation conditions.
50. (New) The method according to claim 47, wherein the hybridisation step is performed under high stringency hybridisation conditions.
51. (New) The method according to claim 47, wherein the detection means used to detect the hybridisation comprises identifying a signal produced by a reporter molecule bound to the probe or primer, wherein the reporter molecule produces an identifiable signal.

52. (New) The method according to claim 51, wherein the reporter molecule is a radioisotope or a non-isotopic reporter molecule.
53. (New) The method according to claim 47, wherein the detection means comprises a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) format.
54. (New) The method according to claim 53, wherein the PCR format comprises reverse transcriptase-PCR.
55. (New) The method according to claim 47, wherein the *Plasmodium* malarial agent of humans is selected from the group consisting of *Plasmodium falciparum*, *Plasmodium vivax*, *Plasmodium ovale* and *Plasmodium malariae*.
56. (New) The method according to claim 47, wherein the biological sample comprises blood or an extracted or purified fraction thereof.
57. (New) The method according to claim 56, wherein the biological sample comprises dried blood.
58. (New) The method according to claim 52, wherein the non-isotopic reporter molecule is biotin.